

## Highway links promise gridlock relief

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Relief is on the way for West Valley drivers heading south and east and for property owners in or near Sun City West who are concerned about traffic noise emanating from Loop 303.

Brock Barnhart, community relations project manager with ADOT, said the most notable project will link the Loop 303 to I-17. The work will be completed in two segments: connecting Happy Valley Parkway to I-17 and Happy Valley Parkway to Lake Pleasant Parkway.

"It's a crucial connection, and will bring relief to I-17 and give another option in the West Valley," Barnhart said.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the four-lane roadway in early 2009. It is expected to be completed in 2012.

The project linking the U.S. 60 to I-10 is in the study phase, Barnhart said. A public hearing is expected to be scheduled at the end of October, where officials will share the findings from the environmental impact process.

The project, which is slated to be begin in 2011 and be completed in 2014, involves adding interchanges at Loop 303 and I-10, another at Loop 303 and Northern Avenue and a third at Loop 303 and U.S. 60/Grand Avenue.

The Loop 303 will be a six-lane freeway with an open, 74-foot-wide median.

For the Loop 303/I-10 interchange, I-10 will be shifted 250 feet north to accommodate the interchange with ramps and frontage roads.

At the Loop 303/U.S. 60 interchange, Grand Avenue will remain at grade and interchange ramps will pass underneath. Patriot's Bridge will remain the highest point of the interchange.

Public comment will be fielded from Oct. 3 through Nov. 7.

Public hearings on the project will take place in Surprise and Goodyear, officials said, but they have not been scheduled.

Barnhart said there will be some interchanges constructed along the Loop 303 at Bell, Cactus and Waddell roads, which will be paid with money from the State Transportation Acceleration Needs funds.

"Those are to get out in front of development so we don't impact the development later," Barnhart said. "Those interchanges will be reconfigured prior to widening (Loop 303), instead of going in later and widening and impacting businesses."

The Loop 303 sound wall project is moving along as scheduled, according to a presentation at the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee.

The group met this week at the Arizona Department of Transportation office in Phoenix to give brief updates on several projects, including the Loop 303 design concept and noise issue.

The Loop 303 sound wall, which will be located north of Sun City West from approximately Deer Valley Road to north of Robinson Drive, will be designed in 2009. The barrier will be 2,283-feet long 8- to 16-feet tall, and will be constructed at a cost of \$1.25 million.

It is expected to be completed in 2010.

Project manager Eric Prosnier is fielding questions and comments from the public at 602-712-8495 or [jprosnier@adot.gov](mailto:jprosnier@adot.gov)

The next transportation oversight committee meeting is scheduled for Nov. 25.

For information:

[http://www.dot.state.az.us/adot\\_and/ctoc](http://www.dot.state.az.us/adot_and/ctoc)